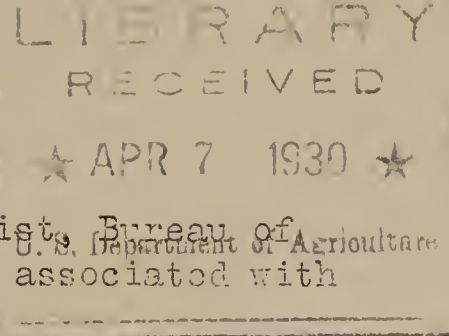


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THE GARDEN CALENDAR.



A radio talk by W. R. Beattie, extension horticulturist, Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered through WRC and 35 other stations the National Broadcasting Company, Tuesday, March 25, 1930.

Daffodils are blooming in thousands of gardens today, making us think that Easter must be somewhere near. In many of the old gardens the daffodil bulbs remain in the ground from year to year, but in some cases it may be desirable to dig and store them, especially if the clumps are getting too thick and need dividing.

It will be many weeks before it is really time to dig and store the daffodil bulbs, but right now while they are blooming in our gardens is a good time to remind you as to the proper method of handling them.

Storage of Daffodils

"Results of experiments with the storage of daffodil bulbs conducted by Dr. David Griffiths of the Bureau of Plant Industry are of interest to home gardeners who have a small supply of these bulbs to store. Dr. Griffiths found that the most important factor in the successful storage of these bulbs is temperature and that the second important factor is humidity. Under reasonably dry conditions daffodil bulbs do not appear to rot at temperatures varying from 40 to 62 degrees F. Flower development in the bulbs goes on faster at temperatures of from 55 to 62 degrees. Daffodil bulbs do not keep well under refrigeration at temperatures below 50 degrees. From these experiments, it would appear that the proper method of handling daffodil bulbs is to dig them before the tops are thoroughly dead then after digging dry them as quickly as possible and store them in a cool, well ventilated place. If the natural storage structures are all relatively high temperatures it may be necessary to resort to cold storage at a temperature not lower than 60 degrees for outdoor planting stock and not lower than 50 degrees for forcing stock. The main point is to store the bulbs in a thin layer in small quantities in crates or on shelves in such manner that they will get a free circulation of air at all times. Both extremely low and extremely high temperatures interfere with the development of the flower which should normally go on inside of the bulb during the storage period."

Ginseng and Golden Seal

Most of us are attracted by anything that might bring us a lot of money. The old days of selling "Gold Bricks," are undoubtedly past, but unwarranted claims regarding profits to be made from the growing of ginseng and goldenseal, for the crude drug product market, have led some persons to believe that these plants offer a sure and easy way to wealth. The U. S. Department of Agriculture has learned that some individuals - probably from lack of information - have been induced to buy, seeds of these plants, at exorbitant prices, and in far greater quantities than required. In one instance a buyer contracted to purchase about ten times as much seed as he needed at five to ten times the generally prevailing price. The ordinary market price for the seed, as quoted by ginseng growers in various parts of the country, ranges from \$1 to \$1.75

(over)

per thousand seeds, depending upon the grade. The Department of Agriculture urges prospective buyers to investigate and to inform themselves fully as to the standard price of seed and the amount necessary to plant a given area.

To begin with the growing of ginseng is not a simple undertaking and its production requires a thorough understanding of its cultivation, also the prospective grower should take into consideration, possible, or I might say probable, losses from diseases, and from the destruction of the roots by mice. The losses frequently reduce the returns, or the crop may fail entirely. In addition, ginseng growers must wait 5 to 7 years for the roots to reach marketable size. Ginseng finds its chief market in China where it is considered a tonic.

Goldenseal is a drug of recognized value in this country and in Europe, but it is also subject to serious losses from diseases, especially in the eastern section of the country. Three to four years are required to produce a marketable product. Many goldenseal gardens have been established in recent years and prospective growers should consider the possibilities of over-production and low prices.

"Ginseng Culture" is the title of Farmers' Bulletin No. 1-1-8-4, while "Goldenseal Under Cultivation," is the title of Farmers' Bulletin No. 6-1-3. Both of these bulletins may be secured upon application to the Department of Agriculture, or through the station to which you are listening.